

Executive Committee

Leadership

President
Rep. Joseph E. Miró, DE

President-Elect
Sen. Bernadette Sanchez, NM

Vice-President for Public Policy
Del. Ana Sol Gutiérrez, MD

Vice-President for Membership
Rep. Minnie Gonzalez, CT
Deputy Majority Whip at Large

Treasurer
Rep. Floyd A. Esquibel, WY

Secretary
Rep. Mario Goico, KS

Immediate Past President
Asm. Felix W. Ortiz, NY

Members

Rep. José F. Aponte Hernandez, PR
Speaker of the House

Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon, IN

Sen. Carlos Cisneros, NM

Rep. Michel Consejo, VT

Rep. Angel Cruz, PA

Rep. Augustine Dominquez, MN

Rep. Steve Gallardo, AZ

Minority Whip

Rep. Rene Garcia, FL

Sen. Elfrain González, NY

Sen. Gloria Arias Haskins, SC

Rep. Ben Lujan, NM

Speaker of the House

Sen. Kenneth McClintock, PR
Senate President

Rep. Pedro Marin, GA

Sen. Iris Y. Martinez, IL

Sen. Antonio Muñoz, IL

Rep. Dora Olivo, TX

*Vice-Chair Mexican American
Legislative Caucus*

Sen. Juan M. Pichardo, RI

Deputy Majority Leader/Minority Issues

Asm. Peter Rivera, NY

Sen. Ross Romero, UT

Rep. Jeffrey Sanchez, MA

Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, TX

Rep. Juan C. Zapata, FL

Executive Director

Elizabeth Burgos

Business Board of Advisors

Leadership

Chairman
Rafael Fernandez, Jr.
RIAA

Vice Chairman
Armando Mejia Gallardo
Altria Corporate Services, Inc.

Vice President for Corporate Policy
Raul Damas
Pfizer

Vice President for Membership
Mary Foerster
AARP

Secretary
Emilio González
Verizon Communications

Members

David Anderson
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP

Charles F. Bunnell
The Mohican Tribe

Sean M. Collins
US1 Public Affairs Inc.

Ivette Davidson
Spanish Broadcasting, Inc.

Daryl Dotey
Abbott Laboratories

Jerry Fuentes
AT&T Services Inc.



March 28, 2008

Majority Leader Harry Reid
United States Senate
582 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
361-A Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL), I write to urge you to help ensure the prompt passage of the National Museum of the American Latino Commission Act, H.R. 512/S. 500 in the United States Senate. This federal legislation would create a commission to study and report on the potential establishment of a National Museum of the American Latino in Washington, D.C.

Representatives Xavier Becerra (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) introduced the bill H.R. 512 which had 108 cosponsors and was passed by unanimous consent in the U.S. House of Representatives on February 7, 2007. Senators Ken Salazar (D-CO), Mel Martinez (R-FL), and Robert Menendez (D-NJ) are the sponsors of the effort to pass the bill in the Senate, and the bill was reported favorably out of the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee on June 26, 2007. Since then, the museum commission act has been included as a provision in bills like S. 2483, S.2179, and S.2616 –more comprehensive bills introduced by Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Senator Jeff Bingaman authorizing a package of dozens of House-passed bills that have also been passed by the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Though American Latinos' contributions span centuries and economic sectors, many people are unaware of the role Americans of Latino descent played, and continue to play in America. Now that more than 44 million Americans are of Hispanic descent in this country, there is a stronger interest in ensuring that America's national museums portray an inclusive picture of our current and future nation. When millions of schoolchildren, families, and tourists from all over the world visit Washington, D.C., they should have the opportunity to learn about all Americans, including those of Hispanic descent.

Now is time for us to move forward in providing a fuller, richer depiction of history and the National Museum of the American Latino Commission must begin its work soon. We hope that you will work with your Senate colleagues to ensure that this very important legislation is brought to the Senate floor and passed promptly.

Sincerely,

Representative Joseph E. Miró (DE)
NHCSL President

CC: Congressman Xavier Becerra
Senator Ken Salazar

Susan Gonzáles
Comcast Corporation
Nilda Gumbs
NCTA
Denise M. Harrod
Compu Credit Corporation
Randal Hernandez
Bank of America California
Jon Gary Herrera
Time Warner, Inc.
Holly Jacques Turner
Merek & Co., Inc.
Sara Johnson Davis
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
Larry Lucas
PhRMA
Jay Magure
1-800 Contacts, Inc.
Derek Naten
Bayer Corporation
Jamie J. Oldani
Eli Lilly and Co
Marco Paredes
AMGEN
Tony Reinhart
Ford Motor Company Fund
José Luis Rodríguez
IHFN
Jim Ruda
Intuit
Michael S. Van Leesten
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

444 North Capitol Street, NW Suite 404
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 434-8070
Fax: (202) 434-8072
www.nhcsf.org